

Roberts Elementary PTO Board Meeting

Friday, March 7, 2014

8:10 a.m. Roberts Cafe

In attendance: Alyson Rooney, Amy McCallum, Aparna Johvani, Anna Kaplan, Camille Jenman, Chris Johnson, Courtney Tardy, Elizabeth Singleton, Emanuela Corradino, Esther Pastore, Felita Joubert, Jenny Johnson, Kara Niles, Kelly Wehrer, Kirsty McCormack, Lori Bullwinkle, Maureen Glancy, Meredith Beebe, Paige Castaneda, Renae Holman Murti, Vanessa Engel Irby, and others

Meeting Called to Order	Courtney Tardy
School Report	Rita Graves
Approval of Minutes	Kara Niles
Treasurer's Report	Alyson Rooney
Auction	Liz Singleton
HISD Liaison	Meredith Beebe
Board Recruitment 2014-15	Courtney Tardy
Adjourn	Courtney Tardy

Meeting Called to Order Courtney Tardy

8:11 am. Tomorrow is Auction! It will be a lot of fun. Over 300 people have bought tickets.

School Report Rita Graves

STAAR - Next week there will be the STAAR exams for 3rd,4th, 5th graders. For Tuesday folder volunteers, we will let you know when you can come. The school is closed to visitors during testing. Book fair is next week.

Elaine Turner party tonight - she wants to thank us and we want to thank her. I do hope you will come out.

Q How is the mom who got hurt?

A She is having another surgery this morning. I'll go by the hospital later today. She will have a tough recover, but she will be OK.

We will send are re-sending traffic and safety guidelines. Part of the balance is parents are educated and decide on what risks they take. My concern is that they are often taking risks with other people's safety.

Please cross at crossing walk with crossing guard. It sets a model for kids to go to the crosswalk. We'll go over the guidelines with the kids. I want to keep the kids safe.

Any Qs?

Comment - The period before 7:45 - buses for middle schools now come to circle drive. The buses pull in and I think it causes problems.

Graves - we're blocking so buses only go on right lane. We don't want cars in the left lane until we have staff there.

Comment - people are getting out of their car on Circle Drive and walking their kids into school, getting backpacks from trunk.

Graves - It's a drop off zone only. None of those behaviors are OK.

Comment - Rita Graves has posted and repeated the rules, but people continue to break them. She has done everything possible to make the school safe. Thank you.

Approval of Minutes

Kara Niles

Kara Niles, Recording Secretary, presented the minutes from the March meeting for approval. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Alyson Rooney and seconded by Renae Holman Murti. A vote was taken and the motion passed. All in favor - Aye

Treasurer's Report

Alyson Rooney

Expenses are all up to date. Everything has been paid for, so from here we are only going upwards.

We are getting close to end of year - if you are a committee chair, if you have money left, it needs to be spent. Please get those requests back to me.

Budget committee meeting to approve next year's budget is also coming up. So if you think your committee amount needs tweaking, please let us know.

Chris Johnson - This needs to be posted ten days prior to the next meeting. Unless you tell us differently, we will keep committee amounts around the same amount. I'll send around an email.

Budget committee will meet in March - We will also look at special allocations: if we have excess funds, we can use them for school projects. We budget in a way to have extra money. Budget committee sits with Rita to make these initial decisions.

Emanuela - can we save some money to do something serious about the field. Make it something useful.

Rita - I've been working on setting this up for. In a couple of years we'll be ready to re-spark. They will match our funds. They develop neighborhood, community parks. We raised money and they matched us. We designed what we wanted, we then knew what to raise. The agreement is that we keep it open at the weekend for the community.

It will cost \$XX at least to redo the field area.

Chris - We have been talking a lot about the fields. Two things to consider - we spend what we make each year, two - we have traditionally given money to education first. We need to work some more on this. Courtney is talking about setting up a foundation for accrual accounting so we can save some of this money.

Auction

Liz Singleton

Tomorrow morning - we'd love to have help at 9. Remember parking is wonky. You can walk or be prepared to take time with parking. It's at the beginning that we need the most help/the most hands. Meet at the main entrance at the Student Center.

Underwriters come at 5:45. Pre-swipe your card when you get there so you don't have to do anything when you check out. We did the underwriting to offset some major gifts of parents who have left. We knew there were parents who wanted to give a bit more. The regular ticket price just covers the costs of catering, location rental, music. We have kept costs down this year, and the teachers go for free.

Random notes: We take everything but AmEx. What to wear - anything goes, trashy or classy. There will be a lot of surprises. We are selling masks and necklaces. The baskets are huge and awesome.

Carnival

Jenny Johnson

We'll talk about Carnival after Auction. But I wanted you to know that there is an Art theme. I'm looking for artists. I have sidewalk artists I've hired. If you know of artists, please ask them.

HISD Liaison

Meredith Beebe

Justin Silhavy, the new HISD Demographer gave a talk. He does studies about population growth in Houston. Our neighborhood is pretty stable, so District 5 is not an area of concern.

Oak Forest, North Forest - they are facing a big population growth of school age children.

They have a book that shows demographics of every school, who transfers out and in, by every measure imaginable. Magnet, private school attendees, etc. There is a link to this book on the HISD website.

Anna - for upcoming meetings, could you enquire about why our spring break doesn't match other school districts. I found this out accidentally with U of H. Can you raise the question of why our break is a week later than other districts?

Meredith - The calendar for next year has already been adopted but we can ask the question for the future.

Board Recruitment 2014-15

Courtney Tardy

Most of you are on the Board, if you are a chair of a committee. Nominating committee proposes a slate, Camille is the Chair. We always want to hear from you all.

Volunteer sheet - are you interested in volunteering or chairing? The sheet describes a bit the time commitments required. I'll send it out after Spring Break.

Please send me names or your own name if you are interested in something. We are bound and committed to having a chair for every committee.

We will vote on the slate of officers at the April meeting, if we see not everyone has had a voice, we will wait until May.

Adjourn

Courtney Tardy

We are adjourned at 8:54 am.

**Next PTO Board meeting
Friday, April 4, 2014 8:10 a.m. at Roberts Cafe**